

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi and Mexican General Consul Alejandra Bologna Warn Against Hysteria and Urge Intergovernmental Cooperation to Deal with Swine Flu Epidemic



Mexican Consul General Alejandra Bologna (left) and Lt. Governor John Garamendi (right) discuss the impact of the swine flu epidemic on California and Mexico at a Commission for Economic Development hearing in Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO – At a meeting of the Commission for Economic Development, which Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi chairs, Mexican Consul General Alejandra Bologna explained to the commission how Mexico has responded to the swine flu epidemic. Lieutenant Governor Garamendi, a former Deputy Interior Secretary under President Bill Clinton, warned against hysteria and highlighted the important trade and cultural relationship shared between the people of California and Mexico.

“My condolences – and I’m sure the condolences of this commission, go out to the families of those who have died in Mexico perhaps as a result of the flu, and also our concern across the entire world about the way this influenza is spreading,” Lieutenant Governor Garamendi said. “I am particularly concerned about hysteria, also obviously about the flu, and I want to assure our friends in Mexico that insofar as I am concerned – and I think the state government the same way having heard the governor’s comments on this – this is not a situation in which we want to close the borders to stop trade or otherwise put a halt to things that are terribly important to all of us – that is the economic development and cultural interaction that has taken place over these many years.”

Mexico is the largest destination for California exports. A quarter of all Californians share a Mexican ancestry.

“This issue is very much in play in California, and the public health offices, including the schools of public health at the University of California, are deeply engaged,” added Lieutenant Governor Garamendi, a University of California regent and California State University trustee.

To date, nine countries have officially reported 148 cases of swine influenza, including 91 cases in the United States and 15 in California. Worldwide, eight deaths have been confirmed to be caused by the outbreak.

“Mexico has been, since the beginning of the situation, in consultation with the United States, Canada, the World Health Organization, and different other health departments around the world to give transparency and inform how it is facing this outbreak of swine flu,” said Alejandra Bologna, Mexican Consul General in Sacramento. “Recent information we received yesterday shows that there are seven confirmed cases of swine flu of people that unfortunately passed away. There is still research to see if the other people that have passed away related to some respiratory illness are related or not with the swine flu.”

Audio of Garamendi’s and Bologna’s remarks is below.

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi on the swine flu epidemic.

<http://www.ltg.ca.gov/images/audio/garamendicedswineflu.mp3>

Mexican Consul General Alejandra Bologna on the swine flu epidemic.

<http://www.ltg.ca.gov/images/audio/bolognacedswineflu.mp3>